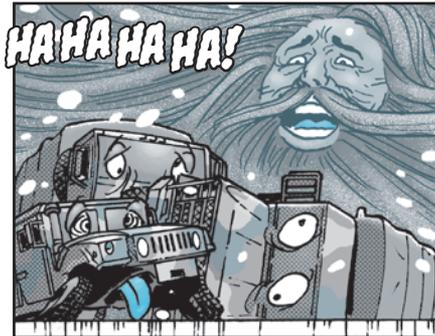


Tactical Vehicles... Play it Safe: Plan Cold Weather PMCS

A PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND SAFELY OPERATED ARMY VEHICLE IS YOUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE IN COLD WEATHER.



BUT ICY CONDITIONS ADD ANOTHER LAYER TO ALREADY TOUGH CONDITIONS.



SO IT'S EVEN MORE VITAL TO FOCUS ON PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE CHECKS AND SERVICES (PMCS).

FIRST, BE SURE TO FOLLOW MAINTENANCE STANDARDS PUBLISHED IN THE PMCS TABLES OF THE -10 TECHNICAL MANUALS (TMs) FOR YOUR VEHICLE.

TM GUIDELINES HELP IDENTIFY POTENTIAL FAILURES OF VEHICLE SUBCOMPONENTS THAT CAN CAUSE A MAIN SYSTEM TO FAIL AND POTENTIALLY INJURE OR KILL PERSONNEL.

HERE ARE SOME MORE TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL WINTER OPERATIONS...

- Perform PMCS before, during and after vehicle operations.
- Before heading out, check road conditions along the entire route and know the difference between conditions. Vehicle operations might start out as GREEN or AMBER but be RED farther along.

Key to Road Conditions

GREEN: Road conditions normal.

AMBER: Military vehicles will not be driven on roads except for essential official business. Commander may be directing authority.

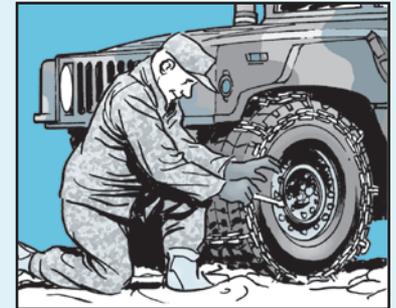
RED: Same as amber, except directing authority is officer with 0-5 rank or above. Government vehicles required to travel will use tire chains or other similar devices designed for heavy snow conditions.

BLACK: Roads generally impassible due to landslides, washouts, ice, etc. All government owned/leased/operated vehicles prohibited from movement. Commanders 0-6 or above may authorize emergency vehicles to operate after risk assessment. If snow or ice caused the road conditions, tire chains or similar are required.

- Keep headlights clear. Brush snow off all headlights and taillights, and use low beams so the vehicle is more visible to others.



- Check tires and tire chains and make sure your crew is trained to properly install them. Inspect tires regularly, and check tread depth and tire pressure before any trip.



- Make sure windshield wipers work and the rubber blades are not torn.



PS MORE

- Check the windshield washer fluid reservoir regularly and refill as necessary. Debris from winter roads can be especially gritty and grimy.



- Check that your vehicle's battery is fully charged and in good condition.



- Stay alert when driving. Don't count on other drivers to use headlights, slow down, or follow the rules of the road. Your extra alertness may help counter some risks that other drivers present.



- Take it slow! You need more time to stop on icy roads. The recommended following distance on ice-covered surfaces is at least three times greater than the usual interval between your vehicle and the one in front of you. In snowy conditions, the average stopping time for a normal car going 60 mph is 10.6 seconds and 533 ft. That's nearly two times the length of a football field! Remember, a heavier vehicle takes even longer to stop.



- Apply brakes early to allow enough stopping time.

If your vehicle has antilock brakes, simply press the pedal down and hold it.

In vehicles without antilock brakes, gently pump the pedal to bring the vehicle to a stop without skidding.



For more information on PMCS and other vehicle-related topics, check out the USACRC Driver's Training Toolbox at: <https://safety.army.mil/drivertrainingtoolbox/>